NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—HAMLET.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—CINDRILLON.

GERMAN THALIA THEATRE, No. 514 Broadway.—SIE ist WAHNSINNIG—PLAUDERSTUNDEN.

GERMAN STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—ORPHEUS IN DER UNTERWELT.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—MR. KENNEDY'S GRAND ENTERTAINMENT—THE SONGS OF SCOTLAND.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS 585 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel—IN THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES—THE NEW CONGRESS.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—BUDWORTH'S MINSTRELS.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, BURLESQUES &c. THE MAN IN BLACK.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THEIR SONGS, DANCES, ECCENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MATRIMONY—AFRICAN POLKA—THE BLACK STATUE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM—NEGRO MINSTRELSY, BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, &c.—NOLL THE NEWSBOY.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway—IN A VARIETY OF LIGHT AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENTS, CORPS DE BALLET, &C. THE MISCHIEVOUS NIGGER.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner of Grand and Crosby streets.—GREAT MASONIC FAIR IN AID OF THE HALL AND ASYLUM FUND.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, Twenty-eighth street, between Lexington and Third avenues.—GRAND FAIR, FESTIVAL AND PROMENADE CONCERT.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—LECTURES WITH THE OXY-HYDROGEN MICROSCOPE twice daily. HEAD AND RIGHT ARM OF FROST. Open from 8 A. M. till 10 P. M.

New York, Friday, December 14, 1866.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

The public are hereby notified that the silver badges heretofore used by the regular reporters of the NEW YORK HERALD have been recalled, and will no longer be used as a means of identifying the attachés of this office.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By special telegrams through the Atlantic cable from France and England we have important intelligence, dated yesterday, December 13. Our general news report embraces financial, commercial and marine advices of the same day.

General Castelnau telegraphs to Napoleon, over the signature of Marshal Bazaine, Mexican news, dated on the 3d of December. Maximilian had not then informed the French representatives of his decision as to his future intentions. Napoleon is advised to permit no unnecessary delay in having his army evacuation transports on the coast in March.

Marshal Bazaine adds to the telegram that United States Minister Campbell and General Sherman had left the harbor of Vera Cruz, and that both gentlemen were "conciliatory" in tone.

A series of fearfully fatal colliery explosions occurred in England on the 12th and 13th inst.

Our special correspondent announces by the cable that three hundred and thirty persons had lost their lives in the Oaks pit, Barnsley, Yorkshire, where two explosions took place. A great number of men and boys were killed by another explosion in the Stafford mines, Staffordshire.

The Fenian movement appears to be progressing.

Turkey is likely to break off relations with Greece.

The Empress Eugenie is to visit the Pope.

Italy is said to have concluded a highly important treaty, but the other contracting Power is not named. Perhaps it is with the Pope.

A North German conference is to assemble in Berlin.

Queen Isabella, of Spain, has set out from Madrid for Lisbon.

By the arrival of the steamship Cuba at this port yesterday we received our special correspondence and European newspaper files dated to the 1st of December.

The ultramontane journals of the continent and liberal press of Germany agree in accepting the fact of the collapse of the Mexican empire as most damaging to Napoleon's prestige. The *Unita Catolica* says that the Paris newspapers, instead of proclaiming the fall of the Papacy, should assure the Emperor he is "already lost." The writer enumerates a series of his imperial "retreats," undertaken "through fear," since 1859, and says he has forwarded a copy of the paper to his Majesty and the officers of State in Paris, so that they may read it at the "proper moment."

James Stephens is said to have arrived in Paris, after a stay of a day or two in London. His visit to the Old World aggravates the Fenian excitement in Ireland and England vastly.

Consols closed in London at 88½ for money yesterday. United States five-twenties were at 71.

United States bonds were "rather weak" in Frankfort and Amsterdam.

The Liverpool cotton market closed quiet and steady, with middling uplands at fourteen and one-fourth pence.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday a bill providing that official notices of the adoption of the constitutional amendment by the State shall be sent to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, instead of the Secretary of State, and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House shall publish the same with their certificates that such amendment is a part of the constitution. The District Franchise bill was then taken up and discussed, the pending question being upon Mr. Dixon's amendment to insert as a qualification that no one who has not heretofore voted shall be allowed to vote unless he can read and write his name. Messrs. Cowan, Foster, Frelinghuysen, Hendricks, Lane and Sumner made short speeches on the question, and on the yeas and nays being called the amendment was rejected. Another amendment, punishing those who offered a bribe at an election and those who accepted a bribe, was then offered and adopted. The bill was then passed by yeas 32, nays 13. The bill as passed is given in full in our columns this morning.

In the House Mr. Stevens introduced a bill to re-establish civil government in North Carolina, to enable it to resume its former relations as one of the constituent States of the American Union. He stated that he did so at the request of several gentlemen from North Carolina. It was referred to the Committee on Territories. A concurrent resolution that Congress adjourn on the 20th, to meet again on the 3d of January next, was adopted. The Deficiency bill was then taken up as in Committee of the Whole. In the discussion on the various appropriations, Mr. Scofield took the opportunity of saying that some of the money might have been intended to pay the expenses of the Presidential tour. Mr. Stevens thought not, although he understood there were some unpaid bills in that connection. Several amendments were agreed to, and the bill was passed. The rest of the session was devoted to speech-making, Mr. Ward, of New York, having the floor. In the course of his remarks he said that the rebel leaders, instead of demanding seats in Congress, should be pressing hemp.

THE CITY.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday. A communication was received from the Mayor withdrawing the name of John M. Haley as Street Commissioner, on account of his declining the appointment, and nominating Wm. McMurray.

The Board of Councilmen also met, and concurred with the Aldermen in granting a portion of the Battery to the general government for a large office. An amendment to the report of the special committee on the Post office site was carried, making the price $1,000,000 instead of $500,000.

A tenement house in East Thirty-first street was burned last night, and the inmates had a narrow escape with their lives. Six of them were severely injured, five by being burned and the sixth by jumping from a window. The loss is estimated at $13,000.

Another meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Board of Fire Underwriters was held yesterday at No. 156 Broadway, Mr. D. A. Heald presiding, and F. W. Ballard acting as Secretary. Action was taken with reference to laws against incendiarism in other States, and in regard to the premature judgment of losses, after which the committee adjourned *sine die*.

The steamtug Fairfield, of the Camden and Amboy Transportation Company, was sunk last evening, about five o'clock, by colliding with the Fulton ferry boat America. No lives were lost, although the crew of the Fairfield had a narrow escape. The loss is estimated at $10,000, with no insurance. According to the statements of the pilots of the respective boats, each one is to blame.

An action against Silas C. Herring & Co., fire and burglar proof safe manufacturers, was commenced in the Supreme Court, Circuit, yesterday, by William A. Sanborn, of Stirling, Ill., to recover the sum of $26,605, stolen by burglars from a safe made and sold by them, and which the plaintiff alleges was warranted as burglar-proof. Case still on.

The recent seizure of a large number of distilleries has had the effect of closing nearly every establishment in this city. The names of several of the establishments now in possession of the government officers are published in this day's HERALD, and measures are being concerted to put a stop to the operations of dishonest distillers. The examination of the alleged whiskey frauds was continued yesterday before United States Commissioners Newton and Jones, and much additional testimony was elicited.

The stock market was firm yesterday on the whole. Gold closed at 137⅝ a ¾.

There was not much change in the commercial situation yesterday as compared with the day previous, though the steady ruling of the gold premium was reflected in the general merchandise markets, and there were fewer and less violent fluctuations in commercial values. Sugar was more active and steady. Coffee was dull. Cotton less active and firm, and dry goods quiet. On 'Change flour advanced 10c. a 15c. per barrel, while wheat, though quiet, ruled more steady. Corn was unchanged. Oats were steady and firm. The pork market ruled firmer, with an increased demand. Beef was steady, and lard was more active and higher. Freights were steady and firm. Whiskey dull and nominal. Petroleum was more active and firmer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our Buenos Ayres despatches are dated October 30, and our letter from Rio Janeiro is dated November 8. The French Envoy, Count de Beaumont, had had an interview with the leaders of both of the hostile armies in Paraguay. A severe storm visited Buenos Ayres on the 28th and 29th of October. Considerable property was destroyed and twenty-three sailors were drowned. The allies on the Plate were compelled to suspend hostilities owing to a want of reinforcements and the severe floods that are prevailing. It is stated that the Paraguayans attacked the Brazilian camp on the 14th of October, and the fight lasted five hours. The reported invasion of the Argentine republic by a Bolivian army, is believed in Rio Janeiro to be a canard. Tamandaré, the Brazilian admiral, and Baron Porto Alegre, the Brazilian commander, do not agree very well with Mitre and Polydoro, who command the Argentines and Orientals, and the parties act entirely independently of each other. Mr. Washburne, the American Minister to Paraguay, left Buenos Ayres on the 24th of October for Assuncion.

News from the west coast of Mexico, via San Francisco, is to the effect that Acapulco would be evacuated in a few days. The French commander had assessed a large portion of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's property, with a view to forcing a loan; but the United States steamer Suwanee having arrived he abandoned the idea.

One of the contestants in the Atlantic yacht race was seen on Wednesday afternoon by the steamship Cuba at a distance of two hundred and sixty miles from Sandy Hook, bearing due east, with all sails set. Her flag could not be distinguished.

Six of the Fenian prisoners were indicted at Sweetsburg yesterday as citizens of foreign States, and on arraignment pleaded not guilty. Their trial will be commenced on the 18th.

The North Carolina Legislature yesterday rejected the constitutional amendment in both Houses.

Governor Fletcher has stationed thirty-four companies of cavalry and infantry in Jackson and Lafayette counties, Mo., and proclaims that they will be withdrawn whenever the people will enforce the laws and protect law abiding citizens.

The Georgia Legislature yesterday passed the stay law over the Governor's veto. A resolution to appoint commissioners to visit Washington and see on what terms Congress would allow a complete restoration of the South was tabled by a heavy vote.

A letter from Arizona says that hard fighting had taken place between the soldiers and the Indians at Fort Mohave, in which the soldiers were compelled to use artillery.

The corner stone of Brownson Hall, the new edifice of the Episcopal Academy of the State of Connecticut, at Cheshire, was laid yesterday with religious and Masonic services.

A coal oil lamp exploded at Mount Clare station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad yesterday. One man was instantly killed and another shockingly burned.

Caleb Lyon, formerly Governor of Idaho, was robbed of $47,000 on Wednesday, in the train from New York, while on his way to Washington.

The following United States vessels-of-war were at Rio on the 8th of November last:—Brooklyn, Juniata, Monocacy and Onward. On the same date (8th) the following were at Lisbon, Portugal:—Colorado, Ticonderoga, Miantonomoh and Frolic.

The steamer Adelaide, of the same line of steamers as the Thomas Kelso, which exploded her steam drum some time ago, ran on the wreck of the rebel monitor Merrimac, in Hampton Roads, yesterday, and was seriously damaged. All the passengers were taken off by another steamer.

The steamer Susquehanna was expected at the mouth of the Mississippi last night with General Sherman and Minister Campbell on board, bound for New Orleans.

The Danish brig Danneveka was chased and robbed by Chinese pirates, in the South Pacific, in the latter part of September. Two British vessels were wrecked in August in the same neighborhood.

Brown, the man who was arrested for alleged complicity in illicit distillation in Jersey City, several days ago, was admitted as State's evidence, and has since been appointed Deputy United States Marshal.

C. W. Nixon, one of the injured on the Thomas Kelso, died from the effects on Wednesday at Norfolk. This makes six deaths in all. The rest of the wounded are recovering.

Five dray loads of whiskey were seized in Philadelphia yesterday, the brands being considered counterfeit.

A fire at Waukegan, Michigan, on Wednesday night destroyed Dickenson Hall and the store adjoining. The loss is estimated at $100,000. Captain Hiram Hogunin ascended to the roof of the burning building and falling through the skylight was burned to death.

RECORDER HACKETT ON THE INSECURITY OF THE NEW OPERA HOUSE.—In his charge to the Grand Jury on Wednesday the Recorder called their attention to the haste and recklessness with which buildings are being run up throughout the city, and referred to the construction of the new Opera House in Fourteenth street as being a proper subject for inquiry on their part. When it was first proposed to use the remnants of the old walls we objected to them as being unsafe, and urged the entire reconstruction of the building. The Recorder, probably on the suggestion of some of our leading architects, has taken hold of the subject, and he very properly recommends that a thorough examination shall be made of the walls. He thinks that after the intense heat to which they have been subjected they may not be strong enough to sustain the enormous pressure which they will be called upon to bear, and that a fearful catastrophe may result from it. This is more than probable, and we are not sure that even the inquiry proposed will satisfactorily decide the matter. The Grand Jury will probably only make a cursory examination of the building, and its opinions, unless they are fortified by those of architects in whom the public can put confidence, will be of very little value. The difficulty presents another illustration of the necessity which exists for the creation by the Legislature of a Board of Works. Had such a body been in existence the stockholders of the Academy of Music would not have dared to risk the safety of the public in the desire to economize a few thousand dollars.

The Sale of the Northern Democracy to Southern Slavery and the Consequences.

"Beware of Calhoun," said General Jackson in his day of power, "beware of Calhoun. He means mischief. We have baffled him on the tariff and nullification; but his next move will be to break up the Union on the slavery agitation. Let the democracy beware of Calhoun." It was against the intrigues of Calhoun that "Old Hickory" engineered the nomination and election of Van Buren in 1836, pledged to walk "in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor." But in 1840, in advance of Van Buren's nomination for another trial, the Southern Calhoun wing of the democratic party, notwithstanding the pressure of the money question from the sweeping financial crash of 1837, brought "the Little Magician" to the pledge, if put to the test, of vetoing any bill which Congress might pass involving the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. This was the entering wedge of the Calhoun faction on the slavery issue; but it effected nothing in 1840 in consequence of the overwhelming financial reaction in that campaign, which, with the force of a tornado, swept the democracy out of power.

But they soon rallied again, from the efforts of Mr. Clay in Congress to establish another national bank and from the crippling of the whig party by President Tyler's vetoes and his expulsion from the church. Then, as the campaign of 1844 drew near, the Southern Calhoun pro-slavery managers resolved upon the test of the annexation of the slaveholding republic of Texas, war or no war with Mexico, and Van Buren, still the favorite democratic candidate, was, some months in advance of the Baltimore Convention, put to this test in a letter from North Carolina. His answer was in accordance with Jackson's warning against Calhoun. Assured of a majority in the approaching convention, Van Buren deliberately replied to this aforesaid letter that the suggested unconditional annexation of Texas would be a hazardous step; that he could not approve it; that from a careful consideration of the subject he was satisfied that the proper course in this matter was first to await a definite treaty of peace between Mexico and Texas; for that otherwise the annexation proposed would involve the annexation of a war. The same letter thus answered by Van Buren was sent to Henry Clay, the anticipated whig candidate, and a similar answer was the result in that quarter. We may safely say, then, that had that contest of 1844, omitting the Texas annexation question, been between Clay and Van Buren, the impotent Northern anti-slavery faction of that day would have remained so for many years to come, while at the same time the Southern Calhoun pro-slavery faction would have been baffled again.

But this was not to be. The Southern pro-slavery democracy, finding in the Baltimore Convention a majority for Van Buren, hit upon the bold device of demanding a two-thirds vote to secure a nomination. The resolution was adopted, Van Buren was thus ousted, and Polk, of Tennessee (as a peace offering to Jackson), and as the champion of the unconditional annexation of Texas, peace or war, was nominated. Thus the national democratic party fell into the hands of the late Southern pro-slavery oligarchy. And what followed? The war with Mexico, the acquisition of a new empire, the defection of Van Buren, with his free soil movement in 1848, which defeated General Cass; the compromise measures (1850) of Henry Clay on slavery, which elected poor Pierce in 1852; the repeal, in 1854, of the old Missouri Compromise under poor Pierce, at the demand of Jeff Davis, Mason, Slidell and their clique; the Kansas border war, the narrow escape of Buchanan in 1856, the Dred Scott decision, "Old John Brown," the irrepressible conflict with Douglas at Charleston in 1860, the break up of the democratic party, the first election of Lincoln, Southern secession, the Southern confederacy, Fort Sumter, the rebellion, the extinction thereby of slavery and the slaveholding oligarchy.

Such is the chapter of accidents resulting from the sale of the Northern democracy to the Southern pro-slavery Calhoun coalition at the Baltimore Convention of 1844. The Northern democracy, thus shorn of their Southern balance of power, after sixteen years of blind devotion to the Moloch of Southern slavery, were left very much in the condition of a community of African slaves suddenly emancipated and turned loose upon the world. They still hankered after the fleshpots of Egypt. Thus they hardly dared to raise a hand to help themselves in 1861; and though they rallied, and, under the popular cry of "a more vigorous prosecution of the war," carried the Northern Central States in 1862, they recoiled at once from these successes, as if ashamed of their treachery to their Southern masters, and proceeded to bow down again before them in humble abasement. The relapse of Horatio Seymour will tell the whole story of the return of the Northern democracy to their heathenish worship of their broken Southern idols. A group of Hindoos, prostrated before a broken Juggernaut, is not a more debasing picture.

So it has come to pass that the Northern democratic party, in each succeeding chain of elections from 1862 to 1866, have been more and more ignominiously chastised, until at last they lie cowering and quailing in the dust. Their conceit, at least to some extent, has been whipped out of them. We hear it in their strange outcries for negro suffrage in Illinois, see it in their fusion with the negroes of Boston at the ballot boxes, and in their sad plight of demoralization everywhere, only excepting the Hon. Jack Rogers in Congress. The question recurs, then, how is this blundering and unfortunate party to be lifted on its pins again? We think the only chance left to save it from dissolution lies with Mr. Auguste Belmont. He is invested with the power of calling together again the Chicago Convention of 1864. Let him call it together, and swear it anew upon the Ten Commandments and the New Testament of the constitutional amendment, and the democracy, like the repenting children of Israel, may get out of the wilderness. Otherwise they must remain in pawn at ten per cent a month, until the South, reconstructed by Congress, shall come to their relief.

OMNIBUS FARES.—We are overwhelmed with communications complaining that the omnibus proprietors maintain the high fares which they charged while hay and oats were at war prices, although the cost of both is not half what it was at the period when they raised them. The omnibus proprietors, it is stated, are making large profits out of the difference. A stop, however, will be put to this when the Legislature meets. If we have a word of advice to give them it is to anticipate the movement which is on foot to bring them to their senses.

The Revolution in the New York Central Railroad—The New Regime.

The great struggle for the old shoes of the late Dean Richmond and the control of the New York Central Railroad terminated on Wednesday in the entire overthrow of the old direction and the election of nearly an entire new board. Only three names identified with the former management of the road appear upon the list of directors—Messrs. Corning, Chedell and Whitney. The retention of the two latter was necessary in consequence of their knowledge of the business of the old board. The election of Erastus Corning was a mere personal gratification, and it is said he will at once retire. He would scarcely be satisfied to sit as a minority director in a board over which he ruled supreme for so many years.

There is a great deal of silly speculation going on as to the means by which this result was accomplished and the effect it is to have upon future interests. Some people see in the election of Mr. Keep, a republican, for President, the destruction of a "great democratic machine." This is all balderdash. If the road has been a democratic machine it has had very unskilful engineers; for the democratic party has been run off the track and smashed up so often that it is now a total wreck. The fact is that the late Dean Richmond used his power in the road to control results in legislation after election rather than to secure party triumphs; and the demoralizing effect of his management was that it made legislative corruption an open and avowed business. Other parties believe that the new direction is made only with a view to overthrow the autocrat of the Hudson and Harlem, and to leave him in a very helpless condition. Others, again, think that because the old express companies have a large representation in the direction the sole object of the new board will be to keep rival express lines off the Central Road. These are all very narrow views to take of the great railroad revolution consummated on Wednesday last.

For some time prior to Dean Richmond's death a fight was being made against him by parties with whom he had come in conflict. It commenced with Erastus Corning and all those who had been swept away from the road when Corning went out of the board. Last year these forces received an important addition from the old express companies, who joined the opposition because Richmond threw his influence on the side of a new express enterprise. At the election for directors in 1865 Dean Richmond secured Vanderbilt's interest, over the heads of his opponents, and won a victory. This made close relations between Vanderbilt and Richmond, which some say were not altogether to the interest of the Central Road; and hence the fight was this year made against both the Richmond and Vanderbilt régimes. In the meantime the Wall street operators have for the past twelve months been accumulating stock and securing foreign proxies, in order to consummate what they have long desired—the transfer of the management of the Central Railroad to New York.

The new direction was formed by a union of the Wall street interest with the old express companies. These two combined found themselves powerful enough to completely upset the old dynasty, weakened by the loss of their chief, and took full advantage of their strength. They have made a direction which, so far as business energy and capacity are concerned, is a strong one. Messrs. Keep and Fargo are both self-made men and possess unquestioned business qualifications. Although Mr. Fargo is a member of the democratic mongrel State Central Committee it is not likely the road will be used as a political machine. The new board will not undertake, with the Legislature probably not over friendly to their management, to drive any rival express enterprises off their line of road. The new régime may properly be called anti-Vanderbilt. All the Vanderbilt men in the old direction were thrown overboard. Azariah Boody, the representative of the Athens Road, was elected a director. A proposition to put three Central directors on the Hudson River Board, and three Hudson River directors on the Central Board, was summarily rejected. A bonus of one hundred thousand dollars, voted by the retiring Central Board to Vanderbilt, as an "equalization" of the freight business between the two roads, was reconsidered by the new board. All these facts indicate an anti-Vanderbilt feeling; but the interests of the Central and Hudson River roads are identical in the winter, and there can at present be no permanent breach between them.

The real dangers to the public under the new direction of the New York Central lie in a different direction. The Wall street interest is predominant in the board, and might be used to occasion ruinous fluctuations in the stock. The rise and fall of Southern Michigan is well remembered, and while the position of the Central is such as to render speculations more difficult with its stock than with almost any other on the market, it is certain that a fall in prices and a sudden rise and a "corner" would make big fortunes for the lucky speculators who might be inside the ring. There has already been much complaint throughout the State that shippers of freight are denied the proper facilities on the Central, in order to force them to do their business through the express companies. Now that the express companies are represented in the Central Railroad direction by two of their presidents and two of their directors, the public will watch with more jealousy than ever the manner in which the freight business of that road is conducted.

The Legislature will no doubt keep a sharp look out for these dangers ahead and speedily set to work to remedy them by legislation, if they should make their appearance. They will be the more disposed to do this, since the new régime has overthrown the principle which has prevailed ever since the consolidation, of locating a majority of the directors on the line of the road. At first all the directors were residents along the road; but after a few years one representative was conceded to Boston and two to New York. In the present board seven out of the thirteen directors are from this city. Under these circumstances, it will be well for the Legislature to be prepared to act with promptitude in case there should be any indication of an intention, on the part of Wall street, to turn New York Central into a fancy stock, or on the part of the express companies to add to the inconveniences and embarrassments heretofore thrown in the way of shippers of freight, in order to drive them to do their business by express.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE SETTLED IN CONGRESS.—The question of woman's right to manhood suffrage has been tossed about on the billows of agitation for a long time. Vagrant reformers and enthusiastic women—the latter very sincere, no doubt, in their desire for ascendency—have been discussing the subject all over the country for many years past, until it has at last turned up in the United States Senate, where, after two days' debate, the claims of the ladies to exercise the privilege of voting have been laid on the shelf by the decisive vote of thirty-seven to nine. Among those voting in the majority we find several Senators who are noted for their extreme views, and who rarely back down upon any extravagant theory proposed for popular adoption. From these facts we assume that the question of woman suffrage is settled, for many years to come at least, by this action of the higher house of Congress.

We therefore recommend the itinerant reformers, the ambitious few of the female sex and sympathizing members of Congress to give their attention to more practical subjects in future, of which there are many claiming the earnest consideration of the national legislature and of all who desire to promote the welfare of the country. The verdict of the Senate evidently proclaims that woman's rights, in the opinion of Congress, are enjoyed to the full extent that all sensible women aspire to.

A CHEAP PIECE OF STATE PATRONAGE.—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the official State canvass, from the Secretary of State, at Albany, together with a polite note requesting that we will please publish the same in the HERALD, and send our bill for the sum of one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents, receipted, to the Comptroller, with an affidavit of publication. In reply we beg to inform the Secretary of State that the advertisement he sends us will cost, in the cheapest part of the HERALD, just seven hundred and fifty dollars, the bill for which will be receipted to the Comptroller or anybody else who may pay that amount over our counter before the publication. And we beg further to inform the folks in the good old Dutch settlement of Albany that the white paper, on which the canvass would be printed, for one daily edition of the HERALD would cost at the mill just four hundred dollars.

THE PILGRIMS' PROGRESS.—Minister Campbell and General Sherman, it appears from our latest accounts of them, had arrived at the mouth of the Rio Grande from Vera Cruz, and intended to begin their search for Juarez and the Mexican republic at Matamoros. We would advise them to be quick, or Miramon, a bold and daring imperialist, may strike the headquarters of Juarez first and carry him off into captivity. What, then, would be left for Mr. Seward to swear by? If we lose Juarez, as the matter stands, we lose our case, and Napoleon will get his claims out of a republic of his own making. That's the danger now.

SAFETY OF FERRY PASSENGERS.—An inspector of steamboats writes to inform us that the inspectors have no authority over ferryboats, except so far as relates to their hulls and machinery, and that there is no power to compel the ferryboats to carry life-preservers, &c. Well, if there is not, there ought to be, and an immediate amendment ought to be made to the act of Congress of June 8, 1864, to that effect. Will some of our Congressmen move in the matter at once?

ON DIT.—It is rumored, and apparently on good authority, that Hon. Ben Wood, State Senator, in a trial of skill with Congressman elect Hon. John Morrissey, at the scientific game of faro, on Wednesday night last, realized the handsome winnings of $140,000. The contest took place at the headquarters of Congressman Morrissey, on Twenty-fourth street.

THE NEW YORK SENATORSHIP.

ALBANY, Dec. 13, 1866.

The contest for the New York Senatorship has been narrowed down to Representative Conkling, Senator Harris and Judge Noah L. Davis, of Orleans county. Mr. Conkling has the influence of the entire central and northern counties of the State. Mr. Davis has a portion of the western counties, and is the candidate of Ben. Field. Mr. Harris has the chairman of the State Central Committee, the Baptist Church, the Albany *Evening Journal*, the Albany interest and three or four counties on the river. Those who have been carefully canvassing the State consider that there is no doubt that Conkling will get the republican caucus nomination.

AFFAIRS IN BOSTON.

The Liquor Question—Efforts to Restore Manufacturing Agencies in Boston—The Boston Yacht Club—Murder Trials, &c.

BOSTON, Dec. 13, 1866.

The liquor question is to be earnestly advocated before the approaching Legislature. It is stated that only seventeen out of the forty Senators are favorable to the measure, and some of these cannot be counted on to a certainty. The leading liquor dealers are satisfied with the law as it is at present and claim that only a few retailers are disposed to agitate it further. The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States will regulate the matter finally, and for that decision the anti-liquor law men are willing to wait. Much complaint exists with reference to the conduct of the State constables. It is charged that they purposely avoid the large and wealthy liquor establishments and prosecute only the smaller ones. This gives rise to the suspicion that the reigning powers dare not raise a political dust by gutting the monster establishments. Five-sixths of those who are prosecuted are said to be opposed to the dominant party. The whole action of the State constabulary force is charged to be one sided, and a legislative inquiry is threatened into their conduct by the radical temperance men.

Efforts are on foot to restore the agencies of large manufacturing establishments, hitherto carried to New York, and locate them again in Boston. The establishment of lines of steamers to the South is believed to be favorable to this restoration, but the manufacturing corporations are not willing to surrender their New York agencies to test the theory of the promoters of the new scheme.

The amount of money contributed last year to the charities of this city by the State Legislature and private individual subscriptions, so far as can be ascertained, is not far from $15,000,000. The amount is represented as greatly exceeding similar contributions in the city of New York.

The new Boston Yacht Club is reported to be arranging for a challenge regatta, to come off next summer, with special reference to showing the New York yachtsmen "how to do it." There are many plucky and wealthy men connected with the club.

John Brougham has so far recovered from his illness as to be able to resume his engagement at the Boston theatre on Monday next.

In the case of McAvena, tried for the murder of Mary Geary, the jury were unable to agree on a verdict, standing six to six. The prisoner was remanded to jail.

The trial of Mrs. Elizabeth Snell, for the murder of her grand daughter, was concluded this afternoon in the Supreme Court. Testimony was taken for the defence until late in the afternoon, when Attorney General Reed said the government, after having heard the testimony, could not but consent to a verdict of not guilty. Accordingly after a little delay such a verdict was rendered. The court room was crowded at the time and much emotion was shown. Mrs. Snell when the verdict of "Not guilty" was brought in was very much affected.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CHILDREN.—The card of Messrs. Thomas & Co. in relation to the Home and School for the maintenance and education of the destitute children of our soldiers and sailors well deserves attention. The object seems to be every way praiseworthy.

THE OCEAN YACHT RACE.

One of the Yachts Seen by the Captain of the Cuba on Wednesday Afternoon Two Hundred and Sixty Miles East of Sandy Hook, &c., &c.

As the British steamship Cuba reached her landing place yesterday afternoon at Jersey City a large number of people were gathered around the wharves, as usual, eager to see again familiar though long absent faces, earnestly bent upon business. After recognitions and salutations one of the first inquiries made was as to whether the Fleetwing, Vesta or Henrietta had been seen. In response to this some of the passengers answered in the affirmative.

Inquiries of the same nature were made by others of other passengers on board the steamship, and a reply of similar import was elicited. When she was moored to the wharf and access could be obtained to Captain Stone the single additional kernel of intelligence in reference to the great ocean yacht race was obtained. The Captain's words are given exactly. He said that "yesterday afternoon, at half-past four o'clock, at a distance of two hundred and sixty miles East from Sandy Hook, a yacht was seen bearing due east. All her small sails could be discerned and she dipped her flag, but at a distance so great that the color could not be distinguished. The others were seen."

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

The Yacht Race Excitement—More of Surratt's Capture—The Medoc Mines, &c.

SWEETSBURG, Dec. 13, 1866.

The Atlantic yacht race causes great commotion among the sports of Canada. Considerable money in Montreal is staked on the result.

A Cabinet council is to be held to-morrow at Ottawa when it is expected acting Governor General Michel will inform the Ministers of his plans in relation to the defence of the provinces.

St. Marie, the discoverer of Surratt, is a native of L'Isle prairie, a small village, nine miles from Montreal, and was formerly employed as clerk in the Post office and in the Education office in Montreal. He afterwards enlisted in the American army. Official correspondence in the HERALD states that Mr. Potter, in September, 1865, advised his government that Surratt had then just left Three Rivers for Europe, having been living with a Catholic priest who had concealed him, and that in October Mr. Adams had information that the man had arrived in Liverpool. It seems that he was not arrested at that time because there was a doubt of the identity of the man pointed out with Surratt. St. Marie in writing to a friend in Montreal, states that after he had given information of Surratt being in Italy a photograph was sent to Rome, and a confidential person directed to compare it with the supposed original.

At Medoc yesterday a party of gentlemen while exploring the country found some very fine specimens of gold on the farm adjoining Richardson's, owned by an American named Irwin.

Murrain Among the Cattle.

MONTREAL, Dec. 13, 1866.

Murrain has broken out among the cattle of parish of St. Pie.

THE WEATHER.

Ice on All the Ponds—Fine Prospects of Skating—The Lakes In and Near the City, &c.

Yesterday was the coldest day of the present winter. At noon on Monday the thermometer stood at thirty-six degrees, on Tuesday the mercury fell to thirty, on Wednesday its spirits rallied and the fluid rose to thirty-three, but yesterday it only marked twenty-nine, and as the hours flew by sank to greater depths. As a consequence the ponds in this city and Brooklyn were frozen over, although on some of the lakes the proprietors deemed it advisable to postpone the opening of the season. This was the case at Major Oatman's Fifth avenue skating rink, where none but a few privileged subscribers were permitted to skim over the ice and partake of an *ante post* of the pleasures of skating. The surface of the rink was beautifully smooth, and with a continuance of the frost throughout the night, may be definitely yielded up to the fraternity to-day. On the ponds in the direct vicinity of the rink preparations are being made for the opening day, but no skaters were observable. McMillan's Fifth avenue park was in possession of an army of workmen, who, with saw, chisel and hammer made the air resonant as they completed the neat building in process of erection for the accommodation of the patrons of the pond. Mr. McMillan announces that, weather permitting, there will be skating on his lake this afternoon at two o'clock. Ample arrangements will by that time be made for the reception of the guests, to whose enjoyment the engagement of a large band of music will greatly add. Passing higher up, and casting a glance upon the site of Major Oatman's former pond—yesterday covered with several hundred democratic skaters, who monopolized the frozen surface to which no admission fee was exacted—the visitor looked upon the lower lake in the Park. A thin sheet of ice mantled its rippling waters; but the red flag, betokening the presence of danger, floated from a staff raised beside the comfortable structures on the banks. The central and upper lakes, within the boundaries of the Park, were also coated with ice; but it may require some days before ventures upon the surface will be absolutely unattended with peril. With reference to the rather limited accommodations for the visitors to the Harlem lake, at 110th street, much complaint has been made. The skaters dwelling in Harlem and Manhattanville claim that the house erected on the pond cannot accommodate one-sixth of its frequenters, and that as there are but two rooms—one reserved exclusively for ladies, and another to be occupied solely by gentlemen—the fair sex must perforce remain exposed to the cold while securing their skates to their tiny feet. It is also urged that those who desire to partake of refreshments are compelled to climb the hill, when the establishment of a reception room and refreshment stand could be effected at little expense. The attention of the Park Commissioners being now called to these facts, it is to be hoped that prompt action will avoid any dissatisfaction on the part of the up-town skating community.

IN BROOKLYN the managers of ponds have been active in preparing for the inauguration of the season. The lakes in the City of Churches will be well attended, and the skating levees will prove the feature of the winter sports. The Union Pond, under the management of Mr. William H. Cammeyer, has been opened and good skating and enjoyable music are events of daily and nightly occurrence. The season at the Capitoline Pond will shortly commence, and the skaters may have occasion to proceed to Nostrand avenue lake in a day or two. The Satellite Skating Pond will probably be opened to-morrow, a private view of the grounds having been previously afforded the public on Wednesday night last. Chichester's Pond will also be visited shortly and will receive a good share of patronage. It will be seen by this resume that the preparations for the season in Brooklyn are not inferior to those completed by the managers of New York skating ponds.

Skating in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13, 1866.

All the skating parks of this city are now frozen and hundreds of persons indulged this afternoon in the sport of skating.

Snow Storm in Western New York.

OSWEGO, Dec. 13, 1866.

It has been snowing here most of the day. The train from Rome, due here this morning, was five hours behind time on account of the snow. At Pulaski and vicinity the snow is over two feet deep. No snow of consequence has fallen on the Oswego and Syracuse road.

Cold Weather in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 13, 1866.

The weather on the Memphis and Charleston and Nashville and Chattanooga Railroads was so severe on Tuesday that several trains were delayed by locomotives giving out and pipes freezing while upon the road.

The Weather in Canada.

TORONTO, Dec. 13.—Weather cold, cloudy, and with appearance of snow.

OWEN SOUND, Dec. 12.—It has been snowing here since Saturday and snow is now three feet in depth.

PORT DALHOUSIE, Dec. 13.—The Welland Canal is frozen over and closes officially on the 15th instant.

BOARD OF CITY CANVASSERS—THE EIGHTH WARD ALDERMANIC CONTEST.—The Board of Canvassers met yesterday. A protest from Theodore Allen, charging gross frauds in the Twelfth election district of the Eighth ward, was read, with an accompanying affidavit from James Lynch. Both were referred to the Committee on Protests. The affidavit of Lynch states that he has reason to believe that votes were fraudulently placed in the box to defraud Mr. Allen. The canvass of the vote for Comptroller was completed, with the following result, as the vote of the whole city:—Richard B. Connolly, 27,186; Richard Kelly, 24,837; Michael Connolly, 19,078; Charles L. Fleming, 172; blank, 60; scattering, 48. The Committee on Prot